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To: ["R7 Senior" <Staff>](#)
CC:
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Subject: KTVI/KPLR Ch. Fox2 - EPA: Radiation Detected At Bridgeton Landfill

EPA: Radiation Detected At Bridgeton Landfill

Submitted by [KTVI-KPLR](#)

The EPA has announced that it has detected radiation at the West Lake Landfill in Bridgeton, Mo.

The landfill is owned and operated by Republic Services, a multi-billion dollar waste company based in Arizona. The EPA said the radiation was detected while flying its anti-terrorism ASPECT plane overheard, but no details have been reported yet.

The ASPECT plane was recently used to scan President Obama's Inauguration and the Super Bowl for chemical traces that might indicate a dirty bomb or other chemical threat.

Public officials representing communities that surround the landfill were warned about the risks that the currently expanding landfill fire poses to residents in the St. Louis area, especially in the presence of untreated nuclear weapons wastes at the site.

Radioactive wastes dumped at the West Lake Landfill in 1973 sit in the Missouri River floodplain with no protective barriers between the wastes and the groundwater. The site is located 8 river miles upstream from where drinking water is pulled for more than 300,000 North St. Louis County residents.

The Army Corps of Engineers has already removed more than 1 million cubic yards of contaminated materials with several years left before completion.

"We have been concerned about the radioactive contamination at the West Lake Landfill for more than ten years," said Ed Smith of the Missouri Coalition for the Environment. "The emergence of a landfill fire over the last two years shows that unexpected problems can always arise. This is one of countless reasons why the radioactive wastes need to be removed."